

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ANTI-TRUST: FURTHER MEDIA REACTION TO POTASH AND
URANIUM INVESTIGATIONS

1. GEOFFREY STEVENS DEVOTED HIS SEPTEMBER 3 COLUMN
IN GLOBE AND MAIL TO URANIUM AND POTASH INVESTIGATIONS.
FOLLOWING BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATION INTO
ALLEGED URANIUM CARTEL AND CITING OF CANADIANS AS
CO-CONSPIRATORS IN POTASH TRIAL, STEVENS ARGUES THAT
IN BOTH CASES "US ANTI-TRUST LAW HAS RUN SMACK UP
AGAINST CANADIAN LAW AND POLICY." "THE FEDERAL
AND SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENTS WERE, WITHOUT QUESTION
ENGAGING IN WHAT THE AMERICANS CALL 'PRICE-FIXING'.
THE ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD WILL NOT ISSUE EXPORT
PERMITS FOR URANIUM AT FIRE SALE PRICES; IN
SASKATCHEWAN, 'PRORATIONING' IS USED TO CONTROL
POTASH PRODUCTION AND KEEP PRICES UP. THE POLICIES
FOLLOWED IN OTTAWA AND REGINA ARE LEGAL, REASONABLE,
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST--AND NONE OF THE UNITED
STATES' BUSINESS. FINALLY, THE TWO CASES ARE
PROBABLY MORE EMBARRASSING TO THE UNITED STATES
THAN THEY ARE ANNOYING TO CANADA; IN EACH, THE
U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS SHOWN AN APPALING
LACK OF REGARD FOR CANADIAN SENSITIVITIES."

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03556 031805Z

2. AFTER NOTING THAT DETAILS OF URANIUM

INVESTIGATION ARE STILL SKETCHY, STEVENS SUMMARIZES HIGHLIGHTS OF BILL OF PARTICULARS IN POTASH CASE FILED IN ILLINOIS COURT. DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE (STATE 217324 WHICH EMBASSY DISCUSSED WITH HIM), STEVENS POINTS OUT THAT CANADIAN NAMES WERE GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO DEFENSE MOTION, THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL SANCTION AGAINST CANADIANS AND THAT ALLEGED CONSPIRACY APPLIED ONLY TO U.S. NOT PRORATIONING IN SASKATCHEWAN, ADDING THAT THEREFORE "AMERICANS SAY THERE IS NO EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF U.S. LAW."

3. IN CLOSING, STEVENS ARGUES "YET, READING THE BILL OF PARTICULARS IN THE POTASH CASE, ONE CAN SEE HOW, IF THE U.S. TRUST-BUSTERS WERE TO BRING THE SAME ZEAL AND APPROACH TO, SAY, OIL AND NATURAL GAS, THEY COULD CONVINCE THEMSELVES OF THE EXISTENCE OF A MASSIVE PRICE-FIXING CONSPIRACY ORCHESTRATED BY AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF 'CO-CONSPIRATORS'--PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU, ALBERTA PREMIER PETER LOUGHEED, FINANCE MINISTER DONALD MACDONALD, ENERGY MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE, AND SO ON. EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY IS STILL A PROBLEM SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION."

4. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CAN.
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